

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW FISHES FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

BY

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CAESIO AXILLARIS.

Depth of body $2\frac{2}{3}$ in total length, length of head $3\frac{2}{3}$ times. Snout a little longer than diameter of eye, which is four times in length of head and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in interorbital width; least width of preorbital $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of eye; maxillary extending to below anterior border of eye; head everywhere densely scaled, except on the snout, forehead, and chin, which are naked. Gill-rakers long and slender, 22 on lower part of anterior arch. Dorsal XI 12; spinous-portion naked, soft portion scaly at the base; middle spines longest, $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head, longer than the soft rays. Pectoral falciform, slightly longer than head. Ventral much shorter, not reaching vent. Anal III 11; third spine longest, a little longer than soft rays, which decrease in length to the last. Caudal crescentic, scaly at the base. Caudal peduncle nearly twice as long as deep. Scales finely denticulate, $80\frac{9-10}{20}$, much larger below than above the lateral line, which extends over 64 scales. Silvery, tinged with yellow above; a round deep black spot in the axil.

Total length 275 millimetres.

Obtained in Buffalo Bay (in False Bay), 8th October, 1898, 20 fathoms. Differs from *Caesio lunaris*, C. & V., which occurs at the Cape, and which has also a black axillary spot, in the smooth spinous dorsal fin, the third anal spine longer than the second, and in the absence of black tips to the lobes of the caudal fin. Besides, the scales on the head are much smaller in *C. axillaris* than in *C. lunaris*.

SYNAPTURA MARGINATA.

Upper eye entirely in advance of lower. Mouth extending to below posterior border of lower eye; snout, lips, and borders of gill-cleft with strong fringes; a fringed dermal flap covering the nostril on the blind side. Depth of body $2\frac{1}{3}$ in total length, length of head 5 times. Diameter of eyes 9 times in length of head, equal to inter-ocular width; length of mouth three times in length of head. Dorsal with 73 rays, anal with 54, longest about $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head. Caudal obtusely acuminate. Right and left pectoral fins equal in length, measuring nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head. Scales larger than in *S. microlepis* and *S. pectoralis*, strongly ctenoid on the coloured (right) side, nearly smooth on the left side; lateral line straight, extending over 105 scales. Coloured side blackish brown; right pectoral and vertical fins black, edged with white.

Total length 270 millimetres.

Only a single specimen was obtained by the trawl from lat. 33-52-30 S., long. 25-47 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. (Algoa Bay), 22 fms.

This species is easily distinguished from its two South African congeners, and necessitates the following addition to the synopsis given in the first part of these reports (1898 p. 1).

11. Snout projecting beyond the lower jaw, hooked; upper eye in advance of the lower.

B. Caudal fin confluent with dorsal and anal.

1. Dextral; pectoral fins present.

Right pectoral fin longer than head. *Synaptura pectoralis*, Kaup.

Right pectoral fin $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head. *Synaptura microlepis*, Blkr.

Both pectoral fins $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head. *Synaptura marginata*, Blgr.

HIPPOCAMPUS CAPENSIS.

10 segments on the body, 34 on the tail, tubercles absent on the head and body, short and blunt on the tail. Snout very short, hardly twice diameter of eye, shorter than postorbital part of head. Dorsal with 17 rays, inserted on the last two segments of the body and the first of the tail. Dark brown; snout whitish; dorsal fin with a black sub-marginal band.

Total length 90 millimetres.

Found in Knysna Harbour, at low tide.

Closely allied to *H. antiquorum*, Leach, from which it differs in the absence of tubercles on the head and body.

Castelnau (Mém. Poiss. Afr. Austr. 1861, p. 74) had already recorded the presence of a sea-horse at the Cape, but had been unable to identify the species.

ENGRAULIS HOLODON.

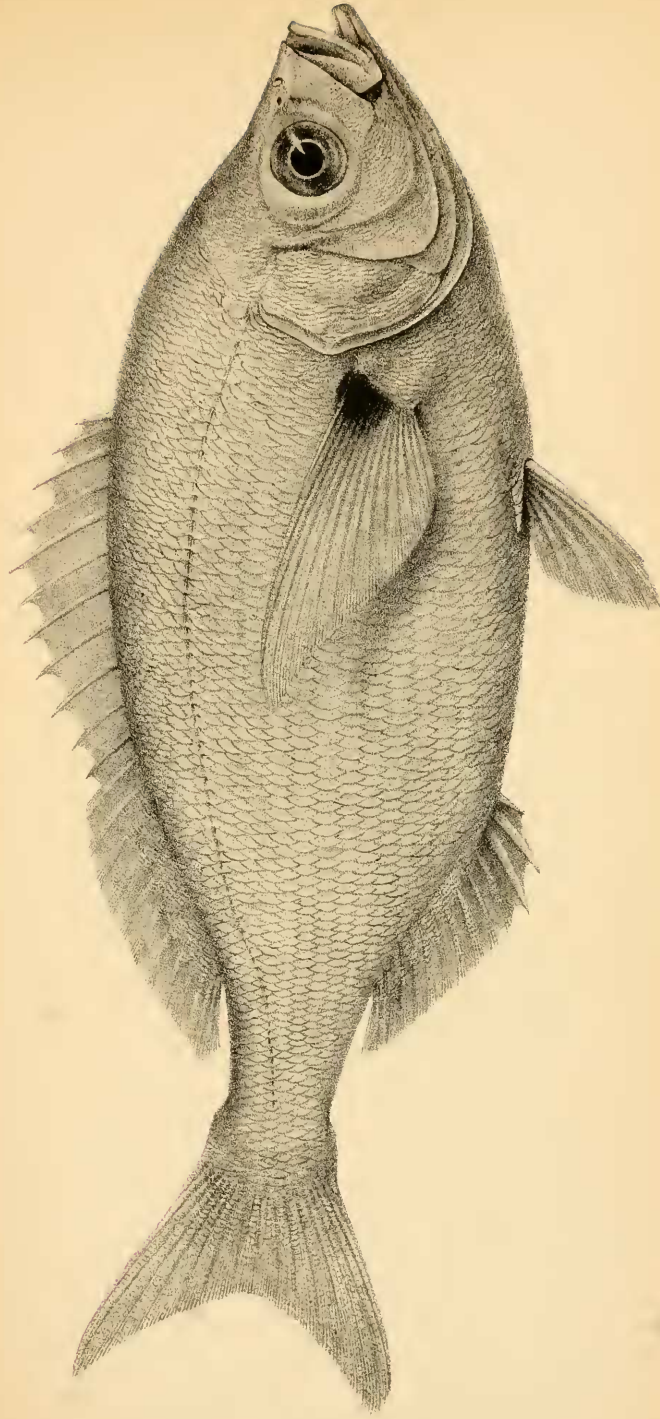
Depth of body 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ times in total length, length of head $\frac{1}{4}$ times. Snout pointed, strongly projecting, shorter than the eye, the diameter of which is three times in the length of the head. Teeth present in both jaws, minute; maxillary tapering behind, extending to the gill-opening. Gill-rakers long, 12 on lower part of anterior arch. Dorsal with 14 rays, originating a little nearer root of caudal than end of snout. Anal with 19 or 20 rays, originating below middle of dorsal. Pectoral $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head. Spiny scales of abdomen 9 in number, extending between pectorals and ventrals. Caudal deeply forked. Caudal peduncle twice as long as deep. 40 to 42 scales in a longitudinal series, 9 in a transverse series. A silvery lateral stripe.

Total length 50 millimetres.

Young specimens were obtained by seine net in the tidal Zwartkops River, Algoa Bay.

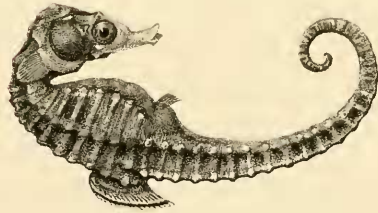
The "Ansjovis" of the Cape fishermen has hitherto been referred to *E. enchrasicholus*, without having been compared with European specimens. These, as well as the Australian and Neo-zelandian *E. antipodum*, differ in the narrower and shorter maxillary, the toothless mandible, and the dorsal fin entirely in advance of the anal.

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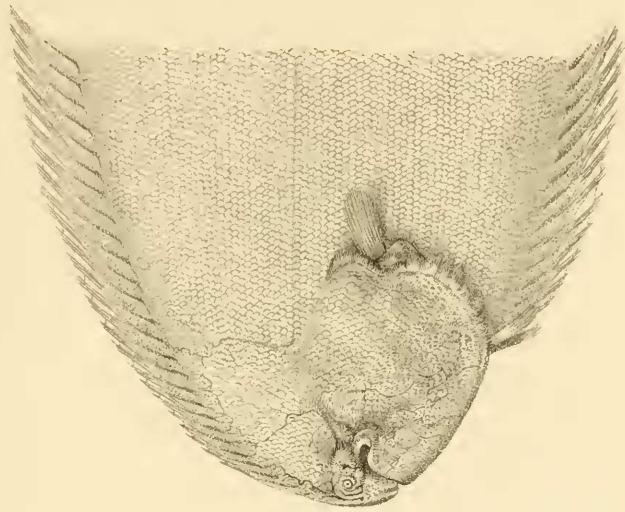
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1. SYNGNATHUS MARGINATUS.

2. HIPPOCAMPUS CAPENSIS.

3. ENGRAULIS HOLODON

Martien Bros imp.



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